

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1 and 2 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 1 and 2 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 1 are the correction of certain lines which were erroneously placed. Similar changes are made to Figure 2.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 19 is currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-21 remain pending in this application.

The Office Action objects to claim 19 for certain informalities. Applicant has amended claim 19 to correct the informality, and the objection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 10, 11 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 729 090 to Geelen (hereinafter “Geelen”). Further, claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geelen. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to a methods and systems for splitting a print job among two or more printers to increase the printing speed for the print job. Embodiments of the invention are adapted to locate the pages of a print job and creating an index of information relating to each page. As described in the specification, the information may include page breaks and header/footer information, for example. A determination is made based on the information in the index as to whether the pages in the print job meet a criteria. Accordingly, claim 1 recites a computer based method including “creating an index of information relating to the locations of the pages in the print job.” Independent claims 13, 17 and 21 recite similar features.

Geelen fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 1. Geelen discloses a printing device with an operating unit for splitting a print job into a number of sub-jobs. As described in the specification, the operating unit allows a user to interact and manually split a job by selecting pages to be included in the sub-jobs (illustrated in Figures 5-7 of Geelen). The pages of the job are displayed merely as “images of the ... pages ... at a reduced scale.” Geelen, col. 6, lines 33-35. Geelen does not create any index of information relating to the locations of the pages, as recited in claims 1, 13, 17 and 21.

The Office Action cites Geelen as disclosing the creation of an index at col. 5, lines 55-59 and col. 6, lines 1-2. However, the cited portions of Geelen merely disclose the representation of a print job as one or more blocks. No indication is provided for the creation of an index. Further, none of the other cited references disclose this feature of the invention, as claimed in claims 1, 13, 17 and 21.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 13, 17 and 21 are patentable. Claims 2-5, 10 and 11 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole. Similarly, claims 14-16 depend directly from allowable claim 13, and claims 18-20 depend directly from allowable claim 17. Claims 14-6 and 18-20 are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geelen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,897,260 to Zingher. Further, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geelen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 to Lobiondo. Claims 6-9 and 12 depend, either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1

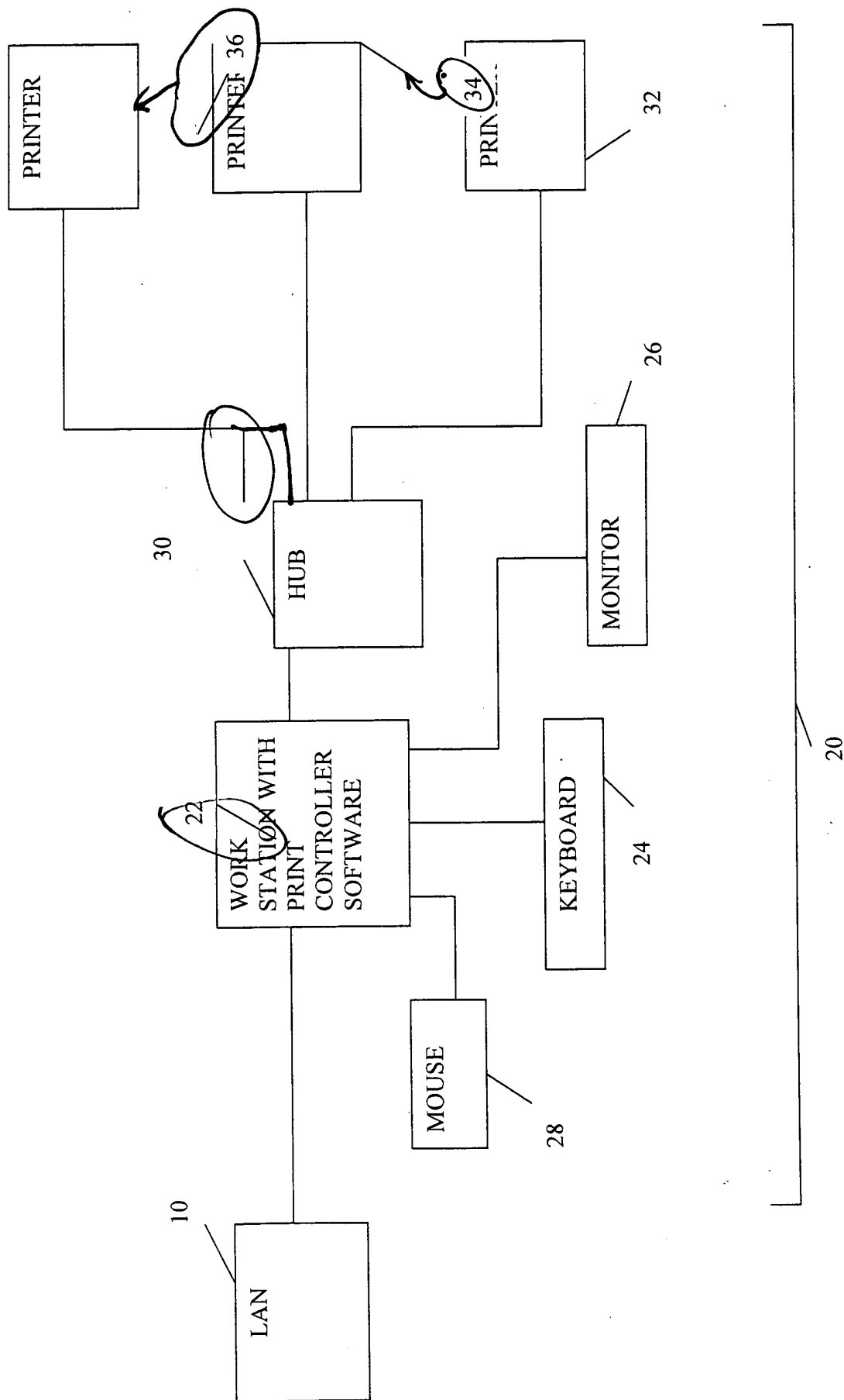




FIG. 2

